wages and fair conditions of work, group insurance and other rights.

States will be encouraged to implement land reforms by plugging the legal and administrative loopholes. States will also be urged to make a law dealing with land records including record of tenancy rights. In cooperation with the States, larger funds will be allocated for irrigation and extension of cultivation.

Poaching of Animals

932. PROF. JITENDRA NATH DAS : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of poachers of rare species of animals brought to book so far since 1990;

(b) the number out of them made ineffective for poaching;

(c) the action taken against them?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ) : (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Spying by B.S.F. Personnel

933. SHRI AMAR ROY PRADHAN : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Border Security Force personnel were found involved in spying activities for other countries during January 1995 to June, 1997;

(b) if so, the action taken or proposed to be taken against such personnel by the Government; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to check this evil practice?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR) : (a) and (b) During the period from 1.1.95 to 30.6.97 no BSF personnel were found involved in spying for other countries. However, one Constable of BSF deployed at Jaisalmer was picked up on April 6, 1997 by Rajasthan Police as his name figured during interrogation of the suspects. The case is under investigation.

(c) Security measures have been tightened and the men have been sensitised to be more vigilant.

Quota of Wheat Released to Assam

934. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA : Will the Minister of FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity of wheat quota released under the Public Distribution System by FCI to Assam during each of the last three years and upto July, 1997;

(b) the reasons for erratic release of PDS quota to the State during the last few years;

(c) whether requests have been received to enhance the quota;

(d) whether the Government propose to streamline the release of PDS quota to the State;

(e) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;

(f) whether FCI has not released the allotted PDS quota to few districts of Assam including Tinsukia and Dibrugarh since January, 1997;

(g) if so, the reasons therefor;

(h) whether any norms are being followed by FCI for such allotments;

(i) if so, the details thereof; and

(j) if not the alternative arrangement being made to continue flow of food-grains in case FCI is not able to fulfil the requirements?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS (SHRI RAGHUVANS PRASAD SINGH) : (a) The Allocation and Offtake of wheat under P.D.S. (including RPDS) in Assam has been as under:-

(In '000 tonnes)

Year	Wheat		
(April-March)	Allocation	Offtake	% Offtake
1994-95	310.00	277.30	89.45
1995-96	360.00	351.70	97.69
1996-97	355.50	301.90	85.00
1997-98			
April-May, 97	60.00	53.20	88.67
T.P.D.S			
June, 97	20.38	N.A.	
July, 97	20.30	N.A.	

(b) The offtake of wheat against PDS allocation has been 85% and above from April, 94 to May, 97 and therefore, it cannot be termed as "Erratic".

(c) to (e) yes, Sir. The Government of Assam has demanded, increase of monthly wheat quota to 45,000 MT against the monthly wheat quota of 20,380 MT fixed from June, 97 under T.P.D.S. which has been revised to 20,300 MT from July, 97 as per bifurcation of wheat and rice quota as requested by the State Government. No further Streamlining of monthly wheat quota is under consideration.

(f) to (j) Information is being collected from FCI and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Cinchona Plantation

935. SHRI R.B. RAI : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Cinchona plantation in West Bengal is incurring heavy losses;

(b) if so, the amount of such losses annually and the reasons therefor; and

(c) the measures the Government contemplated to evolve to improve the situation?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ) : (a) to (c) Information is being collected and would be placed on the Table of the House.

[Translation]

Naxalism in Bihar

936. SHRI BRAJ MOHAN RAM : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Naxalism in Palamau, Chatra and Hazaribagh districts of Bihar has alarmingly increased;

(b) if so, the number of people in the said districts killed during the last three years in the Naxalite activities;

(c) whether any proposal for checking Naxalism has been received from the State Government by the Union Government;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the details of action taken by the Government for checking Naxalism in Bihar?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR) : (a) As per available reports, the violent activities of naxalites in Palamau and Chatra districts have shown a declining trend during the current year as compared to previous year. The trend of their violent activities in Hazaribagh has remained at the same level, as compared to previous year.

(b) As per information available, the number of persons killed during 1995-96 and 1997 (upto 30th June, 1997) in these three districts was 213.

(c) and (d) Under the non-plan scheme for modernisation of State Police forces, an amount of Rs. 333.12 lakhs was released during 1996-97 to the Government of Bihar for purchase of various items under the scheme. This amount includes a special financial assistance of Rs. 100 lakhs. During the current financial year 1997-98, against the annual allocation of Rs. 233.12 lakhs to the Government of Bihar under the scheme, the first instalment of Rs. 116.56 lakhs has already been released.

(e) At the Central level, action is taken to facilitate coordination of the anti-naxalite operations of different States and to improve flow of information useful for control of naxalite activities among the States. Further, help is being provided to the State Governments in terms of financial assistance for modernisation of police, supply of improved weapons, deployment of para-military forces etc. In certain special circumstances, financial assistance has also been given to some of the affected States over and above the ongoing allocations for modernisation of police and supply of weapons.

[English]

Unauthorised Research Organisation

937. SHRI N.N. KRISHNADAS : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware about an unauthorised research organisation namely "Hill Conservation Society" running by some foreigners at "Nelliampathy Hills Westernghat" at Palghat District in Kerala; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR) : (a) and (b) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.